(d) if so, what are the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government has established a National Culture Fund (NCF) in which National and International Corporate Houses can contribute for various cultural activities including conservation and restoration of monuments. The total amount committed in the last three years is Rs.100 crore from Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and US $43900 from World Monument Fund (WMF).

(c) and (d) Separate Memoranda of Understanding are entered into with the donors for NCF projects and the donors are associated in restoration or conservation activities through representation on Project Implementation Committees. The NCF project with association of SAIL, relating to conservation of monuments at Lodi Garden, New Delhi is being implemented through Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). The NCF project with WMF relates to restoration of parts of Jaisalmer Fort. The responsibility of supervising restoration or conservation works lies with the Archaeological Survey of India.

Red Fort as a World Heritage site

932. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to make Red Fort (*Lal Qila*) which has been declared a World Heritage site a truly World Heritage site;

(b) what steps have been taken to restore Red Fort to its original beauty and character; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remove the military barracks build by the British which are an insult to the martyrs of 1857 War of Independence, besides being eyesores to the great Fort?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) To maintain the World Heritage site status of Red Fort, a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan has been prepared, which addresses both short and long term conservation strategies. The buffer area surrounding of the Red Fort has been developed by appropriate landscaping and the day to day maintenance is carried out as part of a continuous process. Further, a management system is in position with a mandate to ensure maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of this World Heritage site.

(c) The military barracks built during the 19th century are more than 100 years old and represent one of the phases of architectural history of the site. Removal of such structures attract the relevant provisions of Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.

Theft of heritage treasures

933. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft is chipping away slowly but surely at India's heritage treasures. With at least 32 idols and artefacts under the protection of the archaeological authority going missing in the last three years;